

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
TREE COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 10, 2014**

Members Present: Interim Chair. Ron Ziegler, Jon Duerr, Ralph Grathoff, Raymond Hauser, Suzi Myers, Pam Otto, Caroline Wilfong, Phil Zavitz

Members Absent: Valerie Blaine

Others Present: Chris Adesso, Isabel Soderlind, Nicole Wang

Visitors Present: None

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Comm. Ziegler at 7:01pm.

2. Roll Call

3. Introductions of Visitors - Comments and Concerns: None

4. Minutes Review and Approval

- A. Motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the March 13, 2014 Tree Commission meeting. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Zavitz to accept and place on file the minutes.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Valerie Blaine, Pam Otto
- Motion carried at 7:05 pm.

5. New Business

A. Update on Emerald Ash Borer: None

B. News and Concerns from Public Works:

- a. Brief discussion regarding the email distributed by Graf Tree Care and the effects of the winter on the evergreen species. The commission appreciated the City distributing the information so they were all aware of the situation. (See attached email.)
- b. Just a reminder that Commissioner Myers and Commissioner Wilfong will be attending the City's Commissioners Orientation Meeting on April 14, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at Century Stations. Commissioners Hauser and Duerr will be attending the June 2, session which begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

C. Langum Woods Spring Clean Up:

Discussion regarding Langum Woods Spring Clean Up was postponed until later in the meeting; Commissioner Otto was not present at the time the agenda item was scheduled to be discussed. (This agenda item was discussed after the of Arbor Day discussion.)

According to Commissioner Otto, Haines School would not be able to participate in the annual spring clean-up of Langum Woods. The Committee discussed setting a date and moving forward with the clean-up using adult volunteers from the Kane County Certified Volunteers Naturalist group. No specific date was indicated at this time. Comm. Otto would contact the group and determine a date late in April or early May.

D. National Safe Digging Month

Interim Chair. Ziegler reminded the committee that April is designated as the National Safety Digging month. JULIE has a simple 811 Illinois One Call System “Before You Dig” program. By placing the call to JULIE the utilities in designated areas are marked within 48 hours. A simple call addresses any safety concerns and prevents costly damage to underground utilities. As committee members advocating the planting of trees, Interim Chairman Ziegler requested the committee do its best to remind the community to call JULIE before digging.

6. Committee Reports

- A. Education Committee:** None
- B. Publicity Committee:** None
- C. Arbor Day Committee:**

Pam Otto entered the meeting at approximately 7:15 p.m.

The Arbor Day celebration will be held at Lincoln Park on April 25 at 4:00 p.m. Nicole Wang led the review of the Arbor Day Celebration Checklist. (See attached documentation for complete listing.). Set up should begin around 2:00 p.m.

Invitation and Programs: Mrs. Wang has been working on the programs. She will be send a copy via email to all the commissioners for their review before final printing.

Presentation of Colors: This item is still outstanding. Several options were discussed:

1. Dwight and James Sullivan, visitors at the last meeting from Boy Scout Troop 1, mentioned they would be interested committee. No one has received a response from them.
2. Past Scout Master Chris Scott could be an option.
3. Comm. Zavitz indicated he would contact Paul Jensen at the Baker Church.

Mr. Jensen is a scout master and his troop may be interested in participating. Comm. Zavitz requested sandbags be available to hold the bases of the flags.

Tree Demonstration: Chris Scott has confirmed that he will perform.

Musician: Comm. Myers confirmed Rick Weals will play guitar for the event.

Press Release: A press release was sent out on April 3. This was also distributed through Twitter and Facebook. Various commissioners had indicated they had already seen some publicity on the local papers regarding the Arbor Day Celebration.

Food, Table, Chairs, Reading Materials: City of St. Charles will be responsible for setting this up.

Tent: Tent has been ordered and set up by 2:00 p.m. It will be located in the same general vicinity as last year.

Tribute To Trees: Art work from all age groups have been represented, submissions have come in from the elementary school, middle school and adults. Kristin Bedford, a photo hobbyist from Batavia, and James Gebhardt from St. Charles, have submitted a series of photographs. Rebecca Hubbs from Wredling Middle School and Doreen Tieche from Munhall School have also submitted art samples from students.

All the art work has been set up in the Atrium window of the Municipal Building and is on display for the entire month of April.

Stewardship Award: Mr. Adesso indicated that he made some inquiries regarding the City receiving the Stewardship Award. While the City appreciates the recognition for its effort, no formal award was needed. The committee however stated they wanted to move forward and recognize the City of St. Charles to receive the Stewardship Award on the Arbor Day program.

Motion to nominate the City of St. Charles for the Stewardship Award at Arbor Day. Motion by Comm. Duerr, second by Comm. Otto.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Valerie Blaine

- Motion carried at 7:35 p.m.

A plaque will be ordered with the verbiage to fit the nomination. Invitations would be extended to previous mayors, Sue Klinkhamer and Don DeWitte. Comm Duerr and Grathoff will make the calls. Mayor Ray Rogina, is already scheduled to attend.

District 303 Tree Award: The presentation has been scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on April 25 at Munhall School. The ceremony will last approximately 20 minutes and all the commissioners were encouraged to participate. A White Oak has been ordered. John Baird and Pedersen Company will be there to assist with the planting efforts.

Davis School: Comm. Wilfong has been working with the principal and library staff at Davis Primary School regarding Arbor Day. The library staff has scheduled time during Arbor Day week for the commissioners to participate. Readings are scheduled for Wednesday, April 23. Commissioners. Otto, Myers and Blaine volunteered. Comm. Otto will be visiting April 17. Comm. Wilfong mentioned the numerous activities, poems and art work including an 8' by 8' mural on display.

Mrs. Wang will create Arbor Day invitations to be distributed to the classes that have participated.

One hundred wooden tree coasters or “Tree Cookies” have been cut. All participants will receive one.

7. Communications

A. Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports

None at this time. Reports will be provided at the upcoming May meeting for the months of March and April, 2014

10. Additional Items – Comments

A. Commissioners:

Comm. Hauser: Indicated that he had not been familiar with the term “Tree Cookies”. Chris Adesso explained that these are small cut sections of a city ash tree which look similar to a round “cookie”.

Comm. Wilfong: Was pleased that the commission had decided to move forward with the Stewardship Award to the City. A strong effort has been made by past mayors and city staff to protect its city trees and felt they should be recognized.

Comm. Grathoff: Looking forward to Arbor Day.

Comm. Otto: Recognized the excellent organizational logistics and efforts made by Mrs. Wang regarding Arbor Day.

Comm. Myers: Also praised Nicole’s efforts to coordinate all the logistics of Arbor Day.

Interim Chair. Ziegler: Nicole has been the right hand person to the Commission and has done an excellent job assisting the Commission and its efforts.

B. Staff:

Mr. Adesso: Also recognized Nicole’s efforts with the Tree Commission.

Mrs. Wang: Announced that she has enjoyed her time supporting the Tree Commission the last two and half years, but she would no longer be working for the City. Her last day would be April 25, but would be at the Arbor Day Celebration that afternoon as resident of the City of St. Charles.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Comm. Myers to adjourn meeting, second by Comm. Hauser.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Valerie Blaine
- Motion carried at 7:58 pm.

/ims